

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the patent application (the "Application").

The Board has affirmed the Examiner's rejections of Claims 1-20.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 11, 13, 15 and 20 have has been amended.

Claims 1-20, as amended, remain in the Application.

The Board's Decision of February 10, 2006 affirmed the Examiner's § 103(a) rejection of Claims 1-20. The Board stated that Appellants' arguments referred to disclosed, but not claimed, subject matter (February 10, 2006 Board Decision, Page 9, Lines 1-4).

In response, the Applicants have amended the claims to recite the previously disclosed but unclaimed subject matter. The Applicants have amended the claims to establish that the term "company information" refers to a specific company that is represented by a specific company node. The Applicants have also amended the claims to recite that at least one company node is operable to modify the company information that is stored in the data files and is operable to control when selected portions of company information in the data files are made available to the constituency nodes.

The Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-20, as amended, now present patentable subject matter over the prior art of record. The Applicants respectfully request that Claims 1-20, as amended, be passed to allowance.

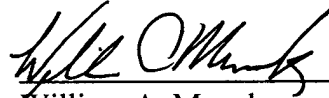
SUMMARY

For the reasons given above, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims and that this Application be passed to issue. If any outstanding issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of this Application, the Applicants respectfully invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below or at wmunck@davismunck.com.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees connected with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0208.

Respectfully submitted,

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